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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/240,406	01/29/1999	JOSEPH P. FERNANDO	777.229US1	7291

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05/22/2002

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EXAMINER

LAO, SUE X

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2151

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

RUA

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 11-44 are pending. This action is in response to the amendment filed 3/6/2002. Applicant has amended claim 16, canceled claims 1-10 and added claims 29-44.

Election/Restriction

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 11-15, drawn to data structures, classified in class 707, subclass 103R;
- II. Claims 16-21 and 27-44, drawn to object lifetime management, classified in class 709, subclass 316.
- III. Claims 22-26, drawn to application program interfaces, classified in class 709, subclass 328.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons. Inventions I, II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, for example, invention I can be used to query object data fields without managing object's lifetime and without calling object's API's; invention II can be used to manage objects' creation without querying the data structures nor calling objects' API's; and invention III has separate utilities such as software development without querying the data structures and without performing object lifetime management. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different searches and their recognized divergent subject matter, and the search required for one Group is not required for another, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Art Unit: 2151

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sue Lao whose telephone number is (703) 305-9657. A voice mail service is also available at this number. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications, (703) 746-7239 for Official communications and (703) 746-7240 for Non-Official/Draft communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Sue Lao



May 7, 2002